

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05370 101757Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 L-03 FRB-01
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-20 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8170
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AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS GENEVA 05370

USEEC

ROME FOR FAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD
SUBJECT: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON OLIVE OIL, GENEVA,
APRIL 1978

1. SUBJECT MEETING CONCLUDED 7 APRIL 1978 WITH THE ADOPTION OF A PROTOCOL OF THAT DATE EXTENDING UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 1979 THE INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL AGREEMENT, 1963, AS AMENDED AND EXTENDED. MISSION WAS REPRESENTED BY AN OBSERVER. THE CONFERENCE ALSO ADOPTED A RESOLUTION INVITING THE INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL COUNCIL (IOOC) TO CONTINUE WITHOUT DELAY CONSIDERATION OF THE BASES FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL AGREEMENT (IOOA) UNDER THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES, WITH A VIEW TOWARD NEGOTIATION OF THIS NEW AGREEMENT IN SPRING 1979, FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE ON 1 JANUARY 1980.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 05370 101757Z

2. THE PROTOCOL, WHICH WILL BE OPENED IN MADRID FOR SIGNATURE THROUGH 31 OCTOBER 1978, IS NEARLY A DUPLICATE VERSION OF THE 1973 EXTENSION PROTOCOL. ITS ADOPTION GENERATED LITTLE DISCUSSION. ONLY ONE ARTICLE--THAT WHICH RECOGNIZES THE EC'S RIGHT TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE AGREEMENT--REQUIRED ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FROM THE 1973 VERSION. SHOWING AN INORDINATE DEGREE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY, LIBYA

AND TUNISIA OBJECTED TO THE FORMER WORDING OF THIS ARTICLE--
"THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY SHALL HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS
AND POWERS AS THE GOVERNMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS PROTO-
COL..."--AS IMPLYING SPECIAL STATUS FOR THE EC. AFTER A
LENGTHY EXPLANATION BY THE IOOC REPRESENTATIVE, WHO POINTED
OUT THAT THE INTENT OF THE ARTICLE WAS MERELY TO GIVE THE EC
THE LEGAL RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AGREEMENT WITH GOVERN-
MENTS, COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WAS ADOPTED: "ANY REFERENCE IN
THIS PROTOCOL TO A GOVERNMENT SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS IN-
CLUDING A REFERENCE TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, OR
ANY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION HAVING RESPONSIBILITIES
IN RESPECT OF THE NEGOTIATION, CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION OF
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, IN PARTICULAR COMMODITY AGREE-
MENTS."

3. THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE OF THE BASES FOR A NEW
IOOA DURING THIS MEETING. HOWEVER, IN CORRIDOR CONVERSA-
TIONS, THE NORTH AFRICANS, NOTABLY THE LIBYANS AND TUNISIANS,
INDICATED THEY EXPECTED THE NEGOTIATION IN 1979 OF AN
ENTIRELY NEW IOOA WHICH WOULD INCLUDE STRENGTHENED PRO-
VISIONS FOR MARKET PROMOTION. THE EC MEMBERS INCLUDING
ITALY, ON THE OTHER HAND, APPEARED TO BE CONTENT WITH
EXTENDING THE CURRENT IOOA AGAIN IN 1979 WITH RELATIVELY
MINOR AMENDMENTS. FORMAL DELIBERATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR
THE SPRING 1979 NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE TO BE HELD UNDER
UNCTAD AUSPICES, WILL BE LEFT TO IOOC MEETINGS IN MADRID.
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 05370 101757Z

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Message Attributes

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